The WFPHA’s Tobacco Control Working Group (TCWG) is to get involved with global tobacco control representatives and the public policy arena.

TCWG members participate and present in many international conferences and meetings, are active in policy development and support, liaise with other organizations, participate in international committees, assist WFPHA in development and communication of policies, positions and publications on current issues in tobacco control. The TCWG actively participated during the World Congress. Mike Daube presented on tobacco control and he was awarded the Hugh Leavell Award.1

In addition, the TCWG met during the World Congress in April 2017. Mike Daube and Jim Chauvin, the TCWG’s co-chairs, outlined some of the challenges facing many PHAs and the WFPHA when it comes to tobacco control. These include limited available funding for tobacco control-related activities, some decreases in funding opportunities over recent years, and the PHAs’ own organizational challenges (staffing, etc.). Kylie Lindorff, Manager of Tobacco Control Policy at the Cancer Council Victoria (Australia, and Framework Convention Alliance for Tobacco Control (FCA) Honorary Secretary) suggested the WFPHA strengthen its links with FCA and not duplicate efforts, that it encourage member PHAs to become FCA members, and that PHAs liaise with the FCA regional coordinators to harmonize action and advocacy efforts. The meeting’s seven participants (representing Australia, New Zealand, India, Canada and the United States) agreed the WFPHA can seek to ensure a continuing international and, through its member PHAs, national focus on tobacco control, continue to develop and promote good, evidence-based policy, have a presence at tobacco-control related events, and encourage and support advocacy by PHAs.

The meeting concluded with a suggestion that the TC working group begin to plan for a significant focus on tobacco control within the program of the 16th World Congress (Rome, October 2020) and that it encourage PHAs to become FCA members. In addition, the TCWG is consulting all WFPHA member PHAs and organizations in early 2018 to identify their actions with respect to the implementation of the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control (FCTC). This information is being used to prepare a report to be submitted to the WHO FCTC Secretariat for accreditation of the WFPHA to attend as an observer at the COP8.

1 See page 23.